



Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

c/o Okanogan County Natural Resources
123 5th Ave N, Suite 110A
Okanogan, WA 98840

July 27, 2006

Mr. D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
7600 Sand Point Way NE
BIN C15700, Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115-0700

Mr. Dave Allen
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eastside Federal Complex
911 NE 11th AVE
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Ms. Chris Drivdahl
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
PO Box 43135
Olympia, WA 98504-3135

RE: Recently Edited Draft Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan

Dear Mr. Lohn, Mr. Allen and Ms. Drivdahl,

First, the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board would like to thank all those at NOAA Fisheries that have contributed their time, interest and expertise to the collaborative efforts that have gone into this plan. NOAA's recently proposed edits have helped clarify technical and administrative concerns that the UCSRB had with the draft recovery plan.

The Board acknowledges that the Draft Recovery Plan is still not complete and in addition to responding to public comments at the end of the Federal Register Notice, the plan in November will include updated monitoring and evaluation program information, recovery costs estimates, an updated all H analysis, and final implementation schedules.

At this time the Board does feel that the plan, in its draft form, is acceptable and can move forward for release into the Federal Register which will allow for the collection of additional public comments that should further strengthen our recovery plan.

It is our understanding that once NOAA has completed the FRN there will be a 60-day comment review period. Upon completion of that review period NOAA will bring all comments back to the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board where the comments will be reviewed collectively with NOAA in a public forum.



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We look forward to the completion of the upcoming comment review period and the finalization of this plan so that we can get on with the efforts of implementation and recovery.

Yours Sincerely,

William T. Towey
UCSRB Chair

Cc: Rob Walton
Lynn Hatcher
Bob Bugert, GSRO
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Julie Morgan, UCSRB Executive Director